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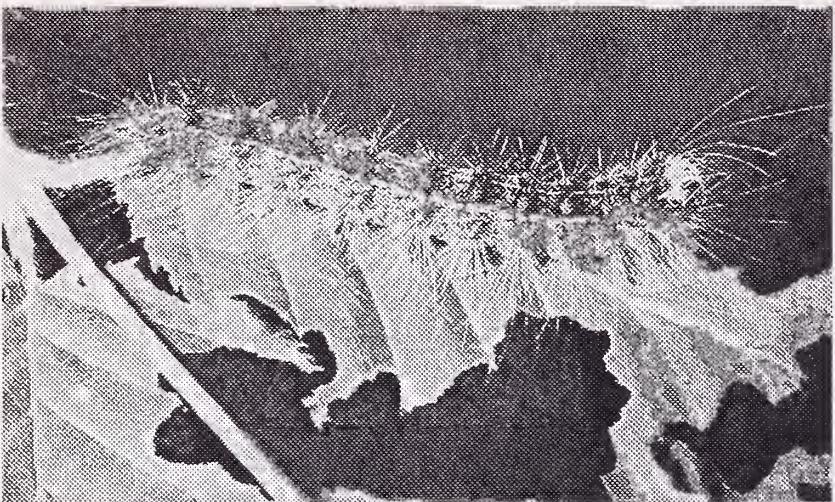
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## CAMPERS STOP HITCHHIKING GYPSY MOTHS



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

PICTURE STORY 267  
JULY, 1973



When millions of gypsy moth caterpillars are hungry, they'll strip everything green from the woods—even grass. Some trees die after one complete defoliation; others take longer. In any event, trees are weakened by the stripping and, in the long run, the whole environment may be affected. (0672X876-6). Camper-owning residents of the Northeast—New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey—should take special care when planning trips because often their camping vehicles have been left parked under trees during the season when gypsy moth caterpillars, cocoons and moths are active. The leaf-eating insect hides in dark cracks and crevices on the vehicles, ready to travel to new wooded areas and become established. Only close inspection—particularly on the undersides of all surfaces—will keep the moth from moving with the camping public. (COVER PHOTO: 0772X955-1)

## CAMPERS STOP HITCHHIKING GYPSY MOTHS

Last summer, a New Jersey camper met a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspector at a Pennsylvania rest stop. The inspector asked the camper—who was bound for California—if he could check the camper's trailer for gypsy moths. Not only was the rig found to be plastered with hundreds of gypsy moth pupae—adult moths were hatching and fluttering around as the inspection was being made.

Similar incidents will be less likely this year since the North American Family Campers Association (NAFCA) is cooperating with USDA in a unique inspection program designed to help stop the spread of this tree-damaging pest.

This summer, camper owners who live in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey should call locally publicized numbers before leaving on trips. A trained inspection team will come to the camper's home, inspect his camping rig and remove all gypsy moths. With this simple inspection, campers can be sure they are not carrying the insect to as yet uninfested areas of the country.



A city of campers—each a potential gypsy moth carrier—formed when this year's annual NAFCA springtime campout was held in West Springfield, Mass. Many of the several thousand members from the Northeast region who attended received training for the gypsy moth inspection program—a cooperative project of NAFCA and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. (0573W1027-18).



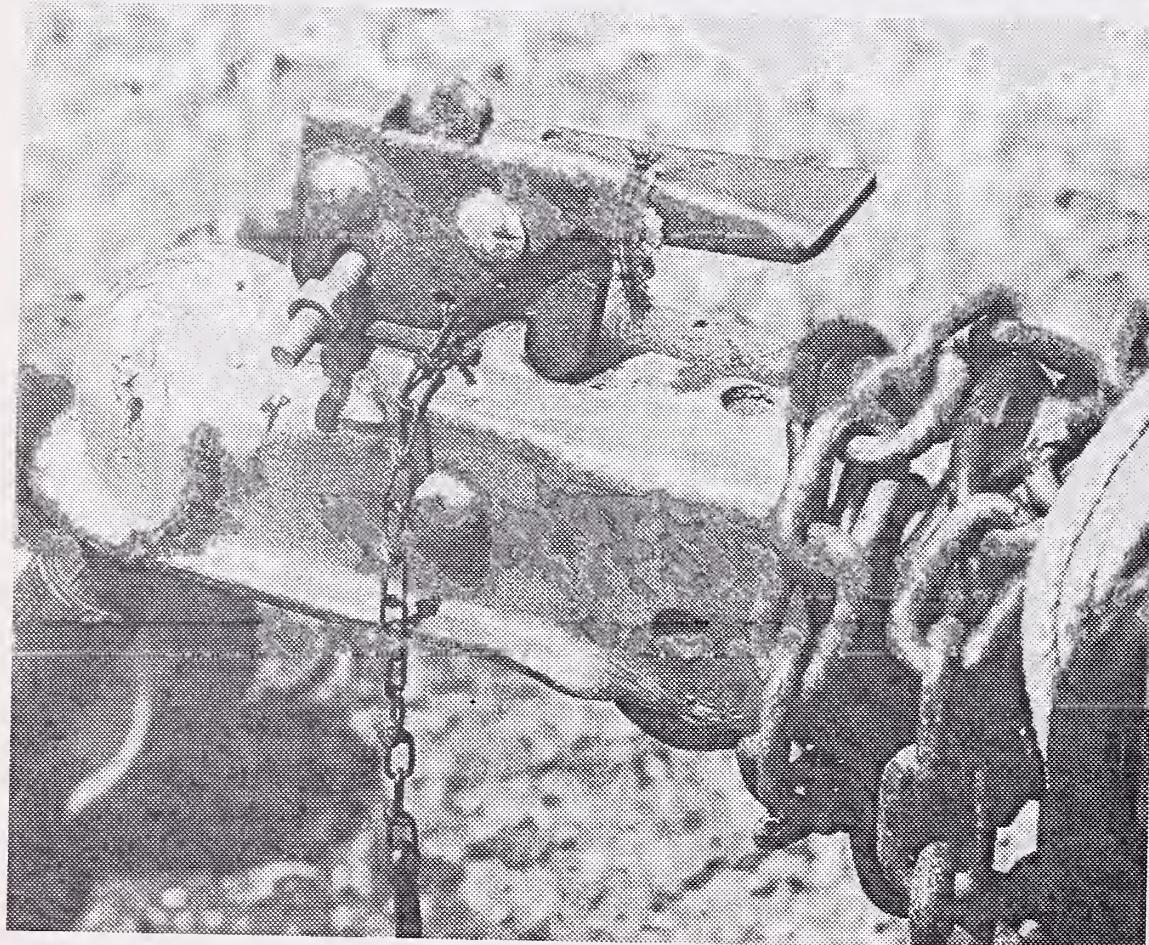
USDA personnel have held many training sessions such as this to prepare NAFCA members for gypsy moth inspection programs in their hometowns. Because of this, the association now has a network of trained volunteer inspectors all over the Northeast. Because the camping public is so large and mobile, the volunteer inspectors should play an important role in keeping the gypsy moth from spreading to new areas. (0573W1025-3)



Its propensity to hide or lay eggs in shaded locations makes it difficult to find gypsy moths in camping rigs. The training sessions emphasize where and what to look for. (0573W1024-11)



ABOVE: Trained volunteer inspectors will make a free inspection of camping vehicles to guarantee campers about to travel they won't be taking the gypsy moth along. Residents of the Northeast can call locally publicized phone numbers to have their vehicles inspected before leaving on any out-of-state trips. (0573W1026-17) LEFT: Caterpillars crawling on top of a camper's trailer hitch are easy to see and remove, but there could be others hiding underneath the hitch. Careful inspection of all undersides and crevices is a must. (0573W1024-35)



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